

New JFK theory outlined

Midland man offers account saying his father carried out orders to assassinate the president

By David Real
and Frank Trejo

Staff Writers of The Dallas Morning News

A nervous 29-year-old Midland man on Monday sketched a teary-eyed account of how his father fired the shots that killed President John F. Kennedy in Dallas in 1963.

Roscoe Anthony White carried off the assassination on orders from officials of U.S. agencies, probably including the CIA, according to his son.

But the newest assassination suspect has been dead 18 years, the diary in which he supposedly admitted the crime is missing,

his wife is too sick to respond to media questions, and private investigators refused to release the names of living co-conspirators or dozens of witnesses they say were killed to cover up the conspiracy.

CIA officials strongly denied any involvement and expressed skepticism about the account.

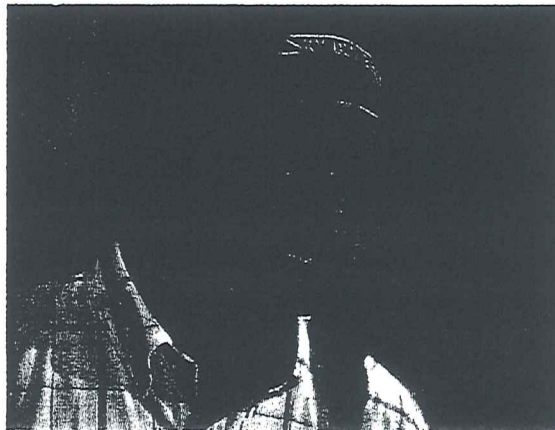
Mr. White's son, Ricky Don White, and more than a half-dozen others presented the assassination claim at a news conference at the JFK Assassination Information Center in the West End MarketPlace.

The newest assassination account centers on Roscoe An-

thony "Rock" White, who was hired by the Dallas Police Department as a photographer and clerk six weeks before the assassination.

According to the conspiracy account, Mr. White and Oswald knew each other as Marines while stationed in the Philippines in 1958 as part of a mission regarding U-2 spy flights over the Soviet Union. The account states that:

■ Mr. White fired two shots at the presidential motorcade on Nov. 22, 1963, from his position behind a picket fence on the right side of a tree on the grassy knoll. One shot hit Mr. Kennedy



The Dallas Morning News: John F. Rhodes

Ricky Don White offers his account Monday outside the JFK Assassination Information Center.

in the throat and another, the fatal shot, struck him in the head. Mr. White also killed Officer J.D. Tippit when the patrolman

threatened to prevent Mr. White and Oswald from escaping to Red Bird Airport. "I know that my father was involved in this," he said. Please see MIDLAND on Page 15A.

Midland man gives new theory on JFK

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ther had to live with that for the rest of his life because J.D. Tippit was a close friend of my father's," Ricky White said.

■ Two other assassins fired two shots each at the president. One, code-named "Lebanon," was working for an air-conditioning crew and fired from the Texas School Book Depository. The other, code-named "Saul," worked for a janitorial service and fired from the Dallas County Records Building.

The identities of the two men were not released.

■ Oswald, who was identified as the lone assassin by the Warren Commission report in 1964, never fired a shot.

■ Geneva White, Roscoe White's wife, overheard her husband plotting the assassination with Jack Ruby, who employed her at his Carousel Club for three weeks in September 1963. Mr. Ruby and Mr. White discussed plans to kill Oswald during the extensive media coverage after the assassination. Mrs. White agreed to four sessions of electroshock treatment to erase her memory of the meetings and save the lives of herself and her family.

■ Mr. White was under orders of government officials, probably including some from the CIA, to assassinate Mr. Kennedy "to eliminate a national security threat to worldwide peace." The orders, addressed to "Mandarin," Mr. White's code name, instructed him to travel to Dallas in September 1963. Another order, written by "Navy Int." the month after the assassination, instructed Mandarin that "the men will be in to cover up all misleading evidence soon."

■ A brown hardcover book owned by Mr. White lists the names of several dozen people in a "witness elimination list." At least two dozen witnesses listed in the book are now dead.

■ Mr. White was killed under "mysterious circumstances" in an industrial fire and explosion in 1971. Ricky White said he believed that his father was killed for trying to sever his ties with U.S. intelligence operations. Ricky White decided to investigate on his own after witnessing the suffering of his father, who died 26 hours after receiving third-degree burns on 99 percent of his body.

Ricky White told reporters at the news conference that he wanted to expose the government forces that covered up the facts of the assassi-

nation.

"My father was an individual that I loved and deeply admired, even today," he said. "He was told by our government to do something. . . . You don't question the government."

He said he learned about his father's role in the assassination from a diary that he found in 1982. But when he took the diary to the FBI in 1988, Ricky White said, he was frightened by five hours of intense questioning. After Mr. White returned home with the diary, Midland FBI Agent Tom Ferris asked to retrieve his FBI notebook from the box containing the diary. Later, Mr. White said, he discovered that the diary was missing. He said he does not know who has the diary, and he never allowed anyone else to read it.

"It's something that you don't take down to your next-door neighbors and let them read," he said. "Even today, I wouldn't share it with outsiders because it's a part of my father that I didn't know. I knew a man who was a whole lot different person, a man that I loved and treasured."

He said his discovery of the diary was "shocking" because his father "never gave the impression of being a bad guy, of being involved in anything."

"I know that y'all are taking one man's word on a diary that doesn't exist, but I'm an individual that will tell you the truth," he said.

Mr. White said a proposed book deal fell through last year but said he hoped a movie could be made of his story. He said he has not earned any money from his story "at this time."

FBI officials in Midland and Washington declined to comment on the allegations.

Ricky White asked Monday for investigations by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox and Dallas County District Attorney John Vance.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Mr. Mattox, said his office is willing to review Mr. White's charges.

"But of course we'd need to have the cooperation of the federal government in order to verify," Mr. Dusek said.

So far, he said, the federal government appears to be satisfied with the results of the Warren Commission investigation.

Mr. Vance did not return calls for comment.

Gus Rose, who investigated the Kennedy assassination as a Dallas



The Dallas Morning News: John F. Rhodes

An archive photo shows Jack Ruby admiring the figure of Ricky Don White's mother, Geneva White. Mr. White says his mother heard her husband plotting with Mr. Ruby, who employed her at his Carousel Club for three weeks in September 1963.

police homicide detective in 1963, said he had never heard of Roscoe White until Monday.

Mr. Rose speculated that perhaps Mr. White worked in the physical evidence section of the Police Department and may have obtained information and evidence through his duties. Mr. Rose said he remembers hauling in "a truckload of evidence" from Oswald's house that Mr. White could have obtained.

"I'm convinced this is just another one of those conspiracies theories, like the guy who was convinced that someone other than Oswald was in Oswald's grave," Mr. Rose said. "To me there's no question that Oswald killed Tippit."

Officer Tippit's widow, Marie Thomas, agreed.

Mrs. Thomas, who remarried several years after Officer Tippit died, rejected any contention that her husband may have known Roscoe White.

"I don't know what he's talking about, I don't understand the reason why he's saying that," Mrs. Thomas said. "We know for a fact there were several witnesses, and at least one of them was willing to come forward, to say that Oswald shot J.D."

Ricky White did not turn 3 years old until Nov. 24, 1963, but said he vaguely remembers seeing his father and four others rehearse the assassination by firing into an automobile on the remote McVay Ranch in Van Horn. Each visit seems to recall more memories, he said.

Mrs. William McVay of Van Horn confirmed that Ricky White visited her ranch about two months ago and told her the target practice story. He told her that the men involved in the shooting had stayed at an old house, dating to 1880, on the property. But Mrs. McVay said she laughed at him.

"We had never heard of such a thing. I don't see how he could remember something that happened when he was 3 years old," Mrs. McVay said.

Mrs. McVay said she and her husband bought the ranch in 1967, several years after the practice would have taken place. People who owned the home in 1963 could not be reached for comment.

Paul McCaghren, who was a Dallas police lieutenant in 1963 and served on a special police committee investigating the JFK assassination, said he first began hearing stories about the alleged Roscoe White involvement six or seven months ago. Since that time, he has been trying to find anyone who might have known Mr. White, but "no one's ever heard of the guy."

"He was just a nonentity. This young man may believe his father killed Kennedy, but it's just not so," Mr. McCaghren said.

"There are people who are going to be coming forward with assassination theories for 200 years."

Staff writers Christopher Elliott and Olive Talley contributed to this report.

Ricky says his father participated in his searches of Oswald's possessions in car clips & at the Paines. Rose makes a lie of that because Rose was on those searches